

Lila Freese, 2023

### Achieving Your Childhood Dreams Reflection

My thoughts on this lecture are mixed. As much as I admire the sentiment to pursue your dreams at any cost, not everyone has the privilege to do that. A lot of the goals he was able to achieve were due to privilege. He had the money to go to a really good school, he had a very nice family who wasn't dependent on him for support, he had the time to pursue his dreams, and, on top of that, he was lucky. While I don't disagree with him on a lot of points, that's what stuck out to me when I was watching. The privilege he and I both have to be able to further our education and work toward our dreams.

Other than that, I also agree that hard work, a good mindset, and a willingness to learn are incredibly important to success in any area of life. The fear of failure is what scares most people into not taking a step towards their goals. We're taught that there is shame in failure. That's true to an extent, but there's also valuable lessons and experiences to be gained. No one is good at something at the very beginning, it's those who persist through that point who will achieve their goals. The hardest part of any project is starting it.

A point that stood out to me that was never outright stated was the importance of being adaptable. Things in life happen and they will screw up your plans. Being able to change course, adapt your plans and actions, and reroute yourself is one of the best skills you can learn. I know that there have been multiple points in my own life where extremely unexpected things occurred (good and bad) that threw me into the deep end. A pandemic my senior year, working with kids from all different walks of life with little to no training and forming bonds with them, and dealing with discrimination for being a queer woman living in redneck country to name a few. You have to persist. Not just for you, but for those who will come after.

